Telephone Exchange, New Delhi have been asked by the authorities to attend to the clerical work;

(b) whether there is great resentment amongst the Telephone Operators in this regard;

(c) if so, the details of T Os attending clerical work since their appointment; and

(d) by when the T Os who are attending to clerical work would be assigned the job as per their posts?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JAI PRAKASH) (a) No Sir, only very few Telephone Operators are on these jobs

(b) No Sir They are appointed out of the panel prepared by calling volunteers

(c) Only 34 Telephone Operators out of 2370 are assigned non-operational duties as on date on tenure basis

(d) The tenure for this posting is three years.

Evacuation of Indians from Iraq and Kuwait

686 DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what steps have so far been taken to evacuate the Indians from Iraq and Kuwait indicating the number of Indians evacuated so far; and

(b) what steps have so far been taken to secure compensation for the assets left behind by Indian evacuees in Iraq and Kuwit indicating the total assets left behind by them, and the total compensation secured so far?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) The Government have taken all possible steps to repatriate Indian citizens from Iraq and Kuwait So far, nearly 1,50,000 Indian citizens have been repartriated from Iraq and Kuwait.

(b) The registration on the value of the movable and immobable property left behind by Indians in Kuwait is under consideration. Government of India would be guided in this regard by UN Security Council Resolution No. 674 inviting all States to collect relevant information regarding their claims and those of their nationals and corporations for restitution or financial compensation by Iraq with a view to such arrangements as may be established in accordance with international law.

Action against big industrial houses for discharging effluents

687 SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state

(a) whether Government propose to take action against big industrial units/ houses for discharging effluents into revers without treating them, thus causing havoc to marine lives and the people residing around the units, and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) (a) and (b Action against major industrial units under the provisions of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, and the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, is taken in those cases where the units fail to take steps to control pollution caused by their effluents. Concerted action by the State Pollution Control Boards has been initiated against the major polluting industries of 10 categories to ensure that these comply with prescribed standards within a time bound programme These section include oil refining, pulp and paper, basic drugs, dyes and dye intermediates, pesticides manufacture, petrochemicals, clusters of tanneries, sugar, pharmaceuticals and fertilizers